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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) 28, *from* 1926 *to* 1930 *both years inclusive.* The awardees are—

Non-Brahman Hindus	13
Muhammadans	3
Brahmans	7
Indian Christians	3
Depressed classes	2

No scholarships were granted this year owing to financial stringency.

(*c*) Not as far as could be ascertained.

Forest Panchayats

Legislation to secure legal status for forest panchayats.

602 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state when the Government propose to legislate for conferring legal status on forest panchayats?

A.—The Government see no need to undertake such legislation at present.

[For further list of unstarred questions, please see page 535 infra.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Excise

Closure of the toddy and arrack shops in Konganapuram, Salem district.

* 603 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Commissioner of Excise has received a mahazar from the people of Konganapuram of Tiruchengode taluk of Salem district requesting the closure of the toddy and arrack shops in their place;

(*b*) what action the Commissioner of Excise has taken over the matter;

(*c*) whether the Government have received representations that the toddy shop in the said place is situated on the public local fund road, and is a hindrance and danger to the travelling public; and

(*d*) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) **A copy of a mahazar, dated 17th August 1931, addressed by the people of Konganapuram mitta to the Commissioner of Excise with an unsigned endorsement, and a letter, dated 22nd September and a telegram dated 26th September from the hon. Member on the subject of the closure of the arrack and toddy shops at Konganapuram, were received by the Government. The letter and the telegram were sent to the Commissioner of Excise. The Commissioner is being asked to report what action he took in the matter.**

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Commissioner has since written to the Government as to the action he has taken ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"No, Sir. We have called for a report. We have not received it yet."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know why so much delay is caused when the people of the taluk ask for the closure of the toddy shop ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" There are other considerations also to be examined, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" What are the other considerations, Sir ? Is it not the policy of the Government that if the people want the closure of certain toddy shops, they should be closed ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Even then, a petition from a handful of people does not mean that all the people in the locality want the closure. It is a matter which requires examination."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is the hon. Minister aware that the Member representing the people concerned has endorsed that petition ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" That has been referred to in the answer, that there was an unsigned endorsement."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR :—" May I know whether the Government is aware that the toddy shop in the said place is located on the local fund road ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR :—" May I know whether the rules permit of such location ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I must look into the rules, Sir. I want notice."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what action the hon. the Minister proposes to take with regard to the abolition of that shop ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" That depends on the report that we are awaiting."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know, Sir, if the report is against the closure, the hon. the Minister will say ' Don't close it '? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" The report is not the last word, whichever it may be."